Accidents in coalmines in 1994-95

7592. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister fo COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of accidents that took place in the coal-mines during the period 1994-95 in the country.

(b) what is the number of persons killed therein together with those who sustained injuries; and

(c) what amount of compensation has been paid by Government to the next kin of the deceased and injured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The number of coal mine accidents during 1994-95 was 788, out of which 137 accidents involved fatalities and 651 involved serious injuries.

As a result of these accidents, there was loss of lift to 162 persons and serious bodily injury to 715 persons.

(c) The amount of compensation is worked out as per provisions contained in Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and is based on the age and monthly earning of the workers. In addition in the above, the following amount is paid to the dependents of a deseased worker:—

(i) Funeral Expenses : Rs. 500/-

(ii) Ex-gratia amount : Rs. 10,000/-

(iii) Amount under Life Cover Scheme : 15,000/-

Besides, employment to one of the dependents of the deceased is also offered. Alternatively, in lieu of employment, the widow/female dependent is paid a monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- till she attains 80 years of age/dies/ remarries, whichever is earlier.

Establishment of coal washeries for high grade coal

7593. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up coal washeries in some parts of the country to increase the availability of high grade coal in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with names of places selected for the purpose;

(c) whether huge amount is likely to be invested in this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof, with its sources of finance;

(e) whether any estimation on increased availability of high grade coal after setting up these washeries has been made; and

(f) if so, the details trereof, colliery-wise and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (f) Four coal washeries, namely Kadla and Piparwar in Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), Madhuband in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Bina in Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) with a total throughout capacity of 16.10 million tonnes per annum are presently under construction. The estimated capital investment on these washeries is Rs. 501.91 crores. The investment has been made partly out of the internal resources of Coal India Limited (CIL) and partly by Government budgetary support.

Besides, CIL have decided to set up four more washeries at Kalinga and Ananta-Bharatpur in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), Dipka in South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) and Sasti in Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) for a total throughput capacity of 21.20 million tonnes per annum under 'build-own-operate' scheme with private investment. Total investment in these washeries is estimated around Rs. 500 crores.

The estimated increased availability of washed coal will be to the tune of 28 million tonnes per annum when these washeries get fully operational.

Indian help to Chinese coal sector

7594. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has sought the help of Government of India to develop some coal mining projects in that country;

(b) if so, the details of the help sought by China in that regard;

(c) whether the probability of such collaboration has been discussed;

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the 2nd meeting of Indo-China Working Group on Coal held in December 1994, the Indian side offered expertise in Planning and Designing of Opencast projects and also supply of opencast equipment for development of opencast mines in China. The Chinese side had welcomed the idea.

(c) to (e) Pursuant to the above decision a Chinese delegation visited India during April, 1995 to discuss this proposal further with concerned Indian organisations. The Crinese side has been requested to identify a suitable site and provide geological data to Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited.

Production of coal in Mahanadi coalfields

7595. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanadi coalfields Ltd. (MCL) had taken steps to increase coal production from its mines;

(b) if so, the performance of MCL during last three years;

(c) the target set by MCL for coal production during the remaining years of the Eighth Plan; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Production of coal in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) during the last three years was as below:

(In million tonnes)

1992-93	23.14
1993-94	24.30
1994-95	27.32 (provisional)

(c) and (d) The target of coal production set for MCL during the remaining years of Eighth Plan are as follows:

(In million tonnes (Date Provisional)

1995-96	30.75
1996-97	35.00

Investment of coal sector

7596. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is order of investment in coal sector for the current year with sources of funding for major projects, company-wise with production targets;

(b) whether the coal sector facing acute resource crunch for developing new mine and modernising existing mines;

(c) if so, specific steps taken/proposed to mobilised adequate resources to meet the production of coal;